

## **REMARKS**

Applicant thanks the Examiner for the remarks and analysis contained in the Office Action. Claims 1-14, 17, 18, and 20 are cancelled. Claims 15, 19 and 22 are amended. New claims 23-27 are presented. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application where claims 15, 16, 19 and 21-27 are currently pending.

The drawings were objected to as noted in paragraph 1 of the Office Action. Applicant submits a proposed correction Figure 1 which includes an indication of the longitudinal axis 23 of the example belt. Additionally, Applicant has replaced the numeral 2 with the Roman number II as suggested by the Examiner.

The specification was objected to. Applicant has deleted the last sentence from the Abstract as suggested by the Examiner and incorporated the change to paragraph 13. Further, Applicant has amended the specification to be consistent with the proposed correction to Figure 1, which includes an indication of the numeral 23 referencing the longitudinal axis of the belt. No new matter has been entered. Additionally, Applicant has inserted the subheadings suggested by the Examiner.

Claims 1-22 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112. The issues regarding the phrase "belt assembly" and the "longitudinal axis" of the belt raised by the Examiner have been addressed by the proposed drawing correction and the amendments to claims 15 and 19, which clarify the language of those claims.

All rejections of claims 1-14 are rendered moot.

Claims 15 and 19 (and their dependents) were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 over the combination of JP 8-247221 and *Miranti, Jr.* Applicant respectfully submits that the claims cannot be considered obvious over this combination. There is no motivation to make the combination and, therefore, no *prima facie* case of obviousness.

Applicant encloses a translation of JP 8-247221 with this Response. The intentional teachings of that reference are to have the grooves equally spaced from each other. Paragraph 7 on page 5 of the translation indicates, "the inner surface of belt main body (11) making contact with pulley (20), linear oblique grooves (13) are formed *at equal intervals* along the length direction." (Emphasis added) Again, the reference states in the section labeled "Constitution" on page 2 of the translation, "In order to embed tensile core wires (12) at prescribed positions in belt main body (11), grooves that are arranged *at equal intervals* along the length direction of the belt are formed in the width direction of the belt on the inner surface of the main body (11) which is the side making contact with pulley (20)." (Emphasis added) Additionally, claim 1 includes the statement that the grooves are "arranged *at equal intervals* along the length direction of the belt." (Emphasis added)

Throughout the JP 247221 reference, emphasis is placed upon equal spacing between the grooves. Therefore, it cannot be considered obvious to modify the teachings of that reference by including spacing as shown by *Miranti, Jr.* The JP reference teaches an opposite result. If one were to modify the JP reference as suggested by the Examiner, Applicant respectfully submits that the intention of the teachings of the JP reference would be at least partially defeated and, therefore, there is no motivation for making the combination.

Applicant respectfully submits that the combined obliquely arranged grooves with different spacings between the grooves cannot be considered obvious over the proposed combination.

Applicant encloses an Information Disclosure Statement and copies of references cited in a counterpart foreign application.

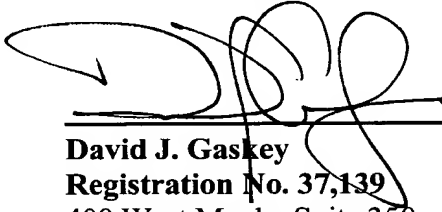
Applicant respectfully submits that this case is in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would facilitate moving this case forward to being issued, Applicant's representative can be contacted at the telephone number indicated below.

**Respectfully Submitted,**

**CARLSON, GASKEY & OLDS, P.C.**

March 11, 2003

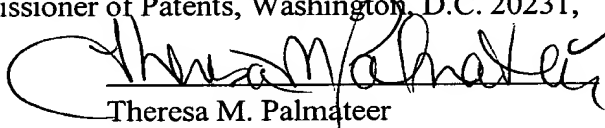
**Date**



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**CERTIFICATE OF MAILING**

I hereby certify that this Response to Notice to File Corrected Application Papers is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to the Assistant Commissioner of Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 11, 2003.



Theresa M. Palmateer